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# Thai Foreign Minister Says U.S. Is Mentally Disturbed

Associated Press

## Bangkok

Foreign Minister Thanat Khoman suggested yesterday that the United States is on the verge of a national mental breakdown that has affected its reliability as an ally.

As a result "it seems relations between Thailand and the United States will evolve toward a more selective basis," he said.

Speaking at an American Chamber of Commerce Luncheon with U.S. Ambassador Leonard Unger in the audience, Thanat said current upheavals in American

society make it "difficult for those working closely and loyally with the United States to expect a well reasoned and balanced reaction from their disturbed partner."

Thanat, a former ambassador to the United States and architect of the military alliance that allows large numbers of Americans to be stationed in Thailand, declared this feeling is shared "along the length and breadth of Asia."

## THEME

His main theme was that Thailand has been unjustifiably criticized by the American press and liberal politicians for supporting the U.S.

war effort in South Vietnam with troops and by granting air bases in Thailand.

"One can say without hesitation that of all the countries in Asia and perhaps the world, which have co-operated with the United States, few have given so much in return for American generosity as the Thai government and people," he said.

He said the U.S. Government insisted that Thailand send troops to South Vietnam and had offered to defray the expenses of the troops to "alleviate the burden that Thailand already had to bear."

He said that this agreement has been misrepresented by politicians in Washington to mean the United States has hired Thai mercenaries and offered Thailand a billion-dollar bribe to send troops to Vietnam.

## BASE

Thanat also referred to charges that Thailand has exploited the United States in the construction of \$200 million B-52 base at Utapao. He said the United States paid for the base in six months by shortening the flying time of the bombers, which previously operated out of Guam and Okinawa.

Quoting an American political scientist, Thanat said the political life of the United States is "exhibiting unmis-

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takable signs of derangement and systematic disorder."

Thanat asserted that the U.S. domestic crisis began with the enemy Tet offensive in 1968. By penetrating the U.S. Embassy grounds in Saigon, he added, the North Vietnamese won "an even greater victory than the one they reaped at Dien Bien Phu."

"The American public opinion, effectively aided by a chorus of TV and radio commentators, by liberal pundits of the press, self-seeking politicians and so-called intellectuals in many campuses, fondered before the co-ordinated onslaughts," he said.

"At the juncture, the policy of scuttle and run, distinctly emerged."

Thanat said the same group of "immature and irresponsible elements" in the United States have turned to attack Thailand as "a scapegoat on which to revenge their frustrations and failures."

Thanat said he felt saddened that while the United States "is great and mighty and the great majority of the people are resourceful, ingenious and generous, certain unbalanced elements should succeed in beclouding the perception of the nation."

It is "high time now for the great majority of American people, be they silent or not, to erase the deleterious and nefarious effects resulting from the actions of a few and restore a saner and healthier consciousness" of the U.S. role, Thanat declared.